

PATENT APPLICATION
Serial Number: 09/492,218
Attorney Docket Number: STD 1757 RCE

REMARKS

Applicant hereby submits this Amendment B for the Final Office Action—Date Mailed: January 26, 2005, Paper No. 20000127, for which a response is due April 26, 2004 by a shortened statutory period for reply set to expire three months from the mailing date of the Office Action. This response is hereby extended one month by Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Claims 1-7, 9-23, 25-82, 94, 95 and 97-118 are pending in the application. Claims 41-51 are allowed. Claims 1-7, 9-23, 25-40, 53-76, 79-82, 86-92, 94, 95 and 99-118 are rejected. Claims 52, 77, 78, 97 and 98 are objected to.

Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Fletcher for his telephone interview regarding the present application on April 26, 2005.

Examiner states in the January 26, 2005 Office Action:

A series of singular dependent claims is permissible in which a dependent claim refers to a preceding claim which, in turn, refers to another preceding claim.

A claim which depends from a dependent claim should not be separated by any claim which does not also depend from said dependent claim. It should be kept in mind that a dependent claim may refer to any preceding independent claim. In general, applicant's sequence will not be changed. See MPEP § 608.01(n).

There are several dependent claims that do not depend on preceding claims. Correction is required.

By this Amendment B, Applicant has amended the Claims, so that all dependent claims now depend on preceding claims.

Examiner states in the January 26, 2005 Office Action: Claims 41-51 are allowed.

Claims 52, 77, 78, 97, and 98 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in dependent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Responsive to Examiner's objections, Claims 52, 77 and 97 are now incorporated into their respective base Claims 66, 1 and 95.

PATENT APPLICATION
Serial Number: 09/492,218
Attorney Docket Number: STD 1757 RCE

Examiner states, "Claims 1-7, 9-23, 25-40, and 53-76, 79-82, 86-92, 94-95, and 99-118 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamilton (5,176,520) in view of Morgando (4,386,551) and Ishii (5,400,687)."

Applicant respectfully submits that this basis of rejection is without technical merit. However, to expedite issuance of allowed and objected to claims, Applicant has amended the claims herein, to make all pending claims allowable, and rendering the rejection moot.

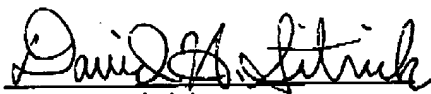
Claims 1, 6, 7, 9-11, 18, 40, 53-61, 66, 71-74, 78, 82-85, 89, 95, 98 and 113-115 are hereby currently amended. Claims 2-5, 12-17, 19-23, 25-33, 35-39, 41-44, 46, 47, 51, 63, 68, 70, 76, 79-81 and 106-110 were previously amended. Claims 34, 45, 48-50, 62, 64 and 65 are original. Claims 52, 75, 77, 86, 87, 90-92, 94, 97 and 116-118 are hereby canceled without prejudice. Claims 8, 24, 67, 69, 88, 93 and 96 were previously canceled. Claims 99-105, 111 and 112 were previously added. No new matter has been added.

Applicant respectfully submits that all bases of objection and rejection are hereby traversed and overcome. The present application and all claims pending by this Amendment B are now in proper form for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Director has already been authorized to charge any additional fees and credit any overpayments during the pendency of this application to Sitrick & Sitrick's Deposit Account Number: 501166. An additional fee for a one-month extension of time for response is due and is hereby paid via Sitrick & Sitrick's Deposit Account Number: 501166.

The Examiner is invited to communicate directly with the undersigned if it would in any way facilitate the prosecution of this Application.

Respectfully submitted,



David H. Sitrick
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 29,349

May 16, 2005

SITRICK & SITRICK
8340 N. Lincoln Ave., Suite 201
Skokie, IL 60077
Telephone Number: (847) 677-4411
Facsimile Number: (847) 677-4656